

## **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

1-3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended) A bracket assembly for use with a spring tension rod for hanging window coverings, the bracket assembly comprising:

a mounting section defining a bearing surface facing in a first direction; and

a rod interface coupled to the mounting section and facing in a second direction generally opposite the first direction, the rod interface adapted to connect with one end of [[a]] the spring tension rod,

wherein the rod interface is arranged relative to the bearing surface to position the rod interface spaced away from a window opening in a direction generally perpendicular to the first and second directions when the bearing surface is borne against a surface of the window opening;

an elbow section coupled to the mounting section and defining the rod interface;

wherein the mounting section and the elbow section are separate parts; and

wherein the mounting section has a male attachment mechanism received in a female receptacle end of the elbow section, the male attachment mechanism including a first leg, a second leg connected to and angled to the first leg, and a third leg connected to and angled to the second leg.

5. (original) A bracket assembly according to claim 4, wherein a snap detent feature is provided between the attachment mechanism and the receptacle end.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) A bracket assembly according to claim 4, wherein the mounting section further comprises:

an anti-rotation tab extending outwardly in the first direction relative to the bearing surface and generally perpendicular to the bearing surface, the tab positioned to prevent downward rotation of the spring tension rod when installed.

8. (previously presented) A bracket assembly according to claim 4, wherein the mounting section further comprises:

a sharp pointed tang extending outwardly in the first direction relative to the bearing surface and generally perpendicular to the bearing surface.

9. (currently amended) A hardware assembly for mounting window coverings, the hardware assembly comprising:

a spring tension rod having a pair of opposite rod ends and a longitudinal rod axis;  
and

a pair of mounting brackets, one mounting bracket coupled to each ~~coupled to one of~~ the opposite ends of the spring tension rod, each of the mounting brackets including;

a rod interface connected to a respective one of the opposite ends of the spring tension rod; and

a bearing surface coupled to the rod interface and extending radially outward relative to the rod axis,

wherein the mounting brackets connect to the rod interface, and wherein the bearing surfaces of the respective mounting brackets face generally outwardly opposite one another, are angled outwardly away from one another, and resiliently bend toward one another to bear against parallel opposed surfaces of a window opening when installed.

10. (original) A hardware assembly according to claim 9, wherein the spring tension rod is length adjustable.

11. (original) A hardware assembly according to claim 9, wherein each rod interface is provided on a corresponding elbow section of each mounting bracket.

12. (currently amended) A hardware assembly according to claim 11, wherein each bearing surface is provided on a corresponding mounting section of each said mounting bracket.

13. (original) A hardware assembly according to claim 12, wherein the elbow section and mounting section of each mounting bracket are discrete parts assembled to one another.

14. (currently amended) A hardware assembly for mounting window coverings, the hardware assembly comprising:

a spring tension rod having a pair of opposite rod ends and a longitudinal rod axis;

a pair of mounting brackets, one mounting bracket coupled to each ~~of each coupled to~~ ~~one~~ of the opposite ends of the spring tension rod, each of the mounting brackets including,

a rod interface connected to a respective one of the opposite ends of the spring tension rod;

a bearing surface coupled to the rod interface and extending radially outward relative to the rod axis,

wherein the mounting brackets are rotationally aligned with one another about the rod axis, and wherein the bearing surfaces of the respective mounting brackets face generally outwardly opposite one another to bear against opposed surfaces of a window opening;

wherein each rod interface is provided on a corresponding elbow section of each said mounting bracket;

wherein each bearing surface is provided on a corresponding mounting section of each said mounting bracket;

wherein the elbow section and mounting section of each said mounting bracket are discrete parts assembled to one another; and

wherein the mounting section of each said mounting bracket includes a male attaching mechanism received in a female receptacle of the respective elbow section, wherein the mounting section includes a flat section that comprises the bearing surface and a first leg of the male attaching mechanism.

15. (previously presented) A hardware assembly according to claim 14, wherein the elbow section and the mounting section of each mounting bracket in combination include a snap-in detent when assembled.

16. (currently amended) A hardware assembly according to claim 14, further comprising:

at least one anti-rotation tab positioned adjacent the bearing surface of each said mounting bracket, each anti-rotation tab extending generally perpendicular to and in the facing direction of the corresponding bearing surface.

17. (canceled).

18. (previously presented) A hardware assembly according to claim 14, further comprising:

a fastener opening provided through a portion of the bearing surfaces of each of the mounting brackets for receiving a fastener when installing each mounting bracket.

19. (previously presented) A method of mounting a spring tension rod for hanging window coverings over a window, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a spring tension rod having a rod axis and opposed ends biased away from one another and compressible toward one another;

attaching a pair of mounting brackets, one to each of the opposed ends of the spring tension rod, each of the mounting brackets having a mounting section and an elbow section connected to one another, a rod interface on the elbow section connected to a respective one of the opposite ends of the spring tension rod, a bearing surface on the mounting section and extending radially outward relative to the rod axis, and a sharp pointed tang extending from adjacent each of the bearing surfaces and generally perpendicular to the respective bearing surface;

rotationally aligning the pair of mounting brackets with one another about the rod axis;

compressing the spring tension rod opposed ends and mounting brackets toward one another;

placing the bearing surfaces adjacent corresponding opposed and facing surfaces of a window opening with the spring tension rod spaced outward from the window opening; and

releasing the spring tension rod such that the bearing surfaces resiliently bend from a non-parallel relative orientation to being parallel to one another and borne against the opposed and facing surfaces of the window opening causing each sharp pointed tang to embed in one of the opposed and facing surfaces of the window opening.

20. (original) A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of:  
length adjusting the spring tension rod at some point prior to the step of compressing.

21. (original) A method according to claim 19, wherein the step of attaching further includes forming an anti-rotation tab extending from adjacent each of the bearing surfaces and generally perpendicular to the respective bearing surface, and wherein the step of placing further includes positioning each of the anti-rotations tabs borne against a forward facing surface adjacent the window opening.

22. (canceled).

23. (new) The bracket assembly of claim 4, wherein the first leg and the third leg are outwardly biased relatively to each other.

24. (new) The bracket assembly of claim 4, the mounting section including a flat section that comprises the bearing section and the first leg.

25. (new) A bracket assembly for use with a spring tension rod for hanging window coverings, the bracket assembly comprising:

a mounting section defining a bearing surface facing in a first direction; and

a rod interface coupled to the mounting section and facing in a second direction generally opposite the first direction, the rod interface adapted to connect with one end of the spring tension rod,

wherein the rod interface is arranged relative to the bearing surface to position the rod interface spaced away from a window opening in a direction generally perpendicular to the first and second directions when the bearing surface is borne against a surface of the window opening, and

an elbow section coupled to the mounting section and defining the rod interface, the elbow section having a first arm and a second arm, wherein the first arm and the second arm define an angle greater than 90°.